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NINTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN

OF THE

HISTORICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS
DEPARTMENT

OF THE

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

1907-1908



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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

1960

LIBRARY

NINTH BIENNIAL REPORT



OF THE

Board of Trustees

OF THE

Historical and Miscellaneous
Department

OF THE

Montana State Library



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WILLIAM S. BELL, Librarian.

Ninth Biennial Report.

Helena, Mont., December 1, 1908.

Sir:—Pursuant to the provisions of Subdivision VII of Section 1209 of the Revised Codes of Montana, 1907, we herewith submit a statement of all important transactions of the Historical and Miscellaneous Department of the State Library for the two years ending December 1, 1908:

The statement is embraced in the report of the librarian attached hereto. A careful examination of the report will show that it is very full and comprehensive. It furnishes eloquent evidence of the very capable and efficient management of Mr. W. S. Bell, the Librarian, and of his devotion to the interests of the library and all branches of its work. We invite particular attention to what has been done in furnishing material for the Montana High School Debating League, in the preparation of reference material for the use of the members of the Legislature, and in the identification of the Fort established by the Missouri Fur Company near Three Forks, in Gallatin County, in the year 1809, and we very heartily recommend that ample provision be made for the continuance and enlargement of these special lines of work.

SUGGESTIONS.

We respectfully offer the following recommendations:

(1) That the salary of the Librarian of the Historical and Miscellaneous Library be fixed at \$2,000.00 per annum.

(2) That the salary of the two assistants be fixed at \$1,200 per annum each.

(3) That an appropriation of \$600 be made for special clerical assistance for the year 1910.

(4) That an appropriation of \$1,000 be made to be expended in the identification of historic spots and erection of suitable monuments to make the identification permanent.

(5) That \$3,000 per annum, being the same heretofore made available for expenses in conducting the ordinary work of the Department, be appropriated.

(Signed)

MASSENA BULLARD,
N. B. HOLTER,
DAVID HILGER,
THOS. H. SPRATT.

Librarian's Report.

To the Honorable Board of Trustees of the Historical and Miscellaneous Department of the State Library,

Gentlemen:

I take pleasure in herewith presenting the Ninth Biennial Report of the Librarian of the Historical and Miscellaneous Department of the State Library, and the first of my incumbency. I assumed my duties June 1st, 1907, hence, while the record of accessions covers the entire two years, the rest of the report has to do only with the time subsequent to that date.

The interests under the supervision of the Librarian naturally fall into three divisions: the library proper, the museum, and the picture collection.

LIBRARY.

Accessions.

Since December 1st, 1906 there have been purchased for the library 374 volumes divided as follows: Montana and northwestern history and biography, 79 volumes; general history and biography, 97 volumes; reference material, 41 volumes; genealogy, 13 volumes; political, medical and social science, 64 volumes; general literature, 80 volumes. In addition by gift and exchange the history department has been augmented by 120 volumes, the genealogical material by 48 volumes, and the general literature by 26 volumes. Also by exchange there have been received from the various states of the Union and the Provinces of Canada, 763 volumes and several hundred pamphlets; and as this is a "United States Depository Library" there has come to us during the two years, from the Superintendent of Documents and the various governmental departments 709 volumes and much more pamphlet material. Thus a total of 2240 volumes have been added to the library during the two years covered by this report.

Books on Hand.

As nearly as can be ascertained in view of the fact that many volumes, the accumulation of the early years of the library's existence, have never been accessioned, there are now on our shelves 14,932 volumes, which may be roughly classified as follows: history and biography, 1376; general literature, 1939; government documents, 7074; state documents (other than Montana), 3443; Montana state documents and laws, 264; historical

contributions, 836. Aside from the bound volumes of our own state publications there are several thousand pamphlet reports of the various territorial and state officers. These have been arranged by departments, but no inventory has been taken.

Newspapers and Magazines.

December 1st, 1906 there were on file in the library 105 different newspapers, seven of which were published outside of the state. Since that time there have been added to the file 23, and 15 have been discontinued, making the number now on file 110, three of which are published outside of the state.

The indexing of the historical, economic and statistical material in these papers has been continued, involving no small amount of labor, but forming a record which has been found to be increasingly valuable.

During the two years but 75 volumes of newspapers have been bound; owing, first, to the great length of time required to get the work done, second, to the almost prohibitive price during the last year. There are now 114 bundles of newspapers, and 149 volumes of magazines waiting to be bound. If reasonable prices can be secured, a generous sum should be spent next year for this purpose. I would recommend, however, that for the smaller weeklies, which are much less apt to be consulted, a cheaper form of binding be used than for the dailies. We are now receiving 51 magazines, 20 by subscription, and the remainder through exchange or by donation. These form an important part of our reference material.

Library Force.

Upon assuming the duties of my position I retained the two assistants who had for some years been connected with the library, Miss Florence Fortune and Miss Katherine Barbour. During the entire time covered by this report Miss Fortune has given faithful assistance. In September of the present year Miss Barbour resigned, having decided to give up the service of the state to become mistress of a home. The library thus lost an efficient worker, and her resignation was accepted with mingled feelings of regret and joy. After a few weeks of temporary service Miss Mary F. Sheriff, a resident of Helena, who came to us after five years in the Helena Public Library and a year's training in the Wisconsin State Library School, where she graduated last May with high commendations from her instructors, was appointed to fill this vacancy. In addition to these two Miss Mary E. Rice has been engaged as a temporary helper for a few months.

Library aims.

At the beginning of my work I was confronted by the ques-

tion, "What are the aims of the library?" After careful thought, believing that the library is not only an historical library, but a state library, upon which devolves all the functions of such an institution save those fulfilled by the law library, I have formulated the reply as follows: To serve the state, (a) By collecting and preserving its historical material as found in books, manuscripts, newspapers, portraits and pictures; and its mineral and archeological treasures. (b) By building up a reference library which shall be available to all the citizens of the state, thus rendering aid to the literary clubs, debating societies, and those engaged in individual research. (c) By giving assistance to the executive and legislative officers. Along these lines have been guided our

Library activities

In the purchase of books, primary consideration has been given to providing means for the study of history in Montana and the northwest, and collecting material for the history of Montana that is yet to be written. Valuable assistance in this direction will be given in the future by the check list of northwestern history which is being prepared by the library of the University of Washington, at Seattle, through the co-operation of this and the other historical libraries of this section of our country.

One of the most valuable services rendered by my predecessors was the collection of manuscripts, many of them of greatest value. No attempt, however, had been made to arrange, classify and catalogue these. This was one of the first tasks that engaged my attention, and now, in a case specially designed for the purpose, properly classified, and with at least two catalogue cards for each manuscript, they are as available as any books upon our shelves. A number of important additions have also been made to the material.

Next to historical works, attention has been given to securing books which will be of service to the state officials and members of the legislature. This, I am sure, will meet the approval of those whom it is designed to aid. A beginning has also been made in establishing a genealogical collection. This is coming to be more and more a real need. Increased attention and interest is being concentrated upon genealogical research, especially on the part of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and there is no genealogical collection worthy of the name in the state. This need I believe it is the duty of the state to supply. Even with our limited material we have been able to render some service. It should be much greater, and our estimate of a book fund for next year should include a good sum for this purpose.

Perhaps even more important than the purchase of books is rendering them available, and making that availability known to

the public. To secure the first requirement a complete system of cataloguing is necessary. It is not what you have, but what you know where to find that marks the measure of the possibilities of a library's usefulness. Some progress toward a complete catalogue has been made during the past two years, but there is still enough to be done to occupy the time of an expert cataloguer for many months.

Bulletins.

In order that our matter may be brought to the attention of the public, two bulletins have been issued, one in September, 1907, containing an author list of the books in our history class, the other in September, 1908, giving an analytical list of our material on Montana history, whether found in books, magazines, newspapers, manuscripts or pictures. This latter especially, has been the subject of commendatory notices.

New lines of activities.

Two new lines of activity have been undertaken which give promise of large usefulness. First, furnishing material for the Montana High School Debating League. Last winter we had calls for help in this direction which we were not able to supply. This fall as soon as the question for debate, "Resolved, that the United States should maintain an offensive as well as a defensive navy", was announced the collection of material was begun. Six packets, of largely duplicate material, were prepared, consisting of magazine clippings, extracts from the president's messages, speeches in Congress and elsewhere, etc., and by letter offered to the High Schools of the state, to be used for one week and then returned. The offer was accepted with the greatest avidity, and within a week the supply was exhausted, and several applications were upon the waiting list.

Second, and most important, has been the preparation of reference material for the use of the members of the legislature. During previous sessions, and under former librarians, some help had been afforded. But I felt that in line with what is being done, notably in Wisconsin, and to a large extent in other states, very much more was possible. Having had the opportunity during last summer of discussing with Dr. Chas. McCarthy, of Madison, Wis., who may properly be designated as the father of the Legislative Reference Department movement, the scope and possibilities of such work; and Miss Sheriff, during her stay in Madison having become greatly interested in it, the time seemed opportune for a beginning in this direction. Since becoming a member of the permanent force Miss Sheriff has given her energies to it, and through her intelligent interest and hearty co-operation in my plans, a very commendable amount of material has been accumulated. Our aim has been to enable those

consulting material to ascertain what previous legislation has been had in our own state; what legislation on important subjects has been enacted in other states; the opinion of experts in regard to various forms of legislation; and the current comment on legislative topics in newspapers and magazines.

But only a beginning has been made. A well equipped legislative department would require at its head a man especially trained in economics, political and social science, and with a good knowledge of constitutional law; and also, a lawyer, one who has studied legislative forms, and thus qualified himself to draft bills, and suggest the proper forms of amendments, &c., and a competent force to work all the year round. To secure this will require additional legislation, and the expenditure of additional funds, but it is an ideal to which the state may well look forward.

Historical volume.

The law provides that an historical volume shall be published each year. This law has never been complied with. Vol. 6, which was in course of preparation when I became librarian, and whose publication was entrusted to the hands of Mrs. Howey, the former librarian, did not make its appearance until February, 1908. In size it considerably exceeded any of its predecessors. It seemed to me it would be wise to have a smaller volume, and in accordance with law, issue it more frequently. I had therefore planned that Vol. 7 should be forthcoming in 1908, but when the material was nearly all in hand the printing fund was discovered to be so low that the Board of Examiners did not feel warranted in allowing its publication. I now hope to be able to get it out early in the spring.

Historical spots.

Another form of activity in which the librarian has been engaged, though not strictly connected with the library, is of great historic interest, namely, the identification of the site of the fort established by the Missouri Fur Co., near Three Forks, Mont. in the year 1809. Two trips have been made to the locality and with the aid of the old pioneers in the vicinity, who have become deeply interested, the ground upon which it stood has been fixed upon. Through the interested efforts of Mr. Wm. L. Irvine, a citizen of Three Forks, the C. M. & St. P. Railroad Co., stands ready to donate this ground to the state, provided it will take steps to protect it against the encroachments of the river and erect a suitable monument thereon. This it seems to me, should by all means be done, thus following the example of Kansas, Colorado, Oregon and other western states, which as rapidly as possible, are marking all points of historic interest.

Contact with other workers.

Through the broad minded policy of the Trustees of the library, I have been permitted to share in the organization of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association (embracing all the states lying between the Alleghany Mountains and the main range of the Rockies) at Lincoln, Neb., in October, 1907; and during last summer to attend the sessions of the American Library Association, at Lake Minnetonka, and, at Madison, Wis., to visit the famous Wisconsin Historical Library, and to study the various forms of library interests which are centered there. This opportunity to study library methods in operation, and to come in contact with intelligent and efficient workers I feel has been most helpful.

Library exchange.

The system of library exchange is becoming more and more general all over the country, and there is a constantly increasing demand for our historical volumes and state publications, coming to us from the various historical and state libraries, and to a considerable degree from public libraries as well. Each library, through this system of exchange is able to secure an accumulation of historic and economic material which could not be obtained in any other way. We have now on our exchange list 33 historical libraries, 49 state libraries, and 10 public libraries. The exchange of state documents has been greatly facilitated by the law passed at the last legislature requiring that 150 copies of each state report shall be deposited in the Historical and Miscellaneous Library.

PICTURE COLLECTION.

This, to the casual visitor, is the most interesting portion of our material, and its historic worth will be more and more appreciated as the years go by. Valuable accessions have been received during the two years, and for them the gratitude of the state is due the donors; but the limited space we have for placing pictures makes it increasingly difficult to display them to advantage. Additional room for our pictures is one of the great needs of the library.

We have now in our collection 212 portraits, 32 group pictures, 71 miscellaneous pictures and 392 photographs. A list of the additions during the last two years is given in the appendix.

MUSEUM COLLECTION.

The most important addition to this department, secured through the efforts of Mrs. Howey has been the fine cabinet and rare collection of smoky quartz crystals donated by Hon. W. A. Clark. In this cabinet also can be seen an interesting display of Montana woods. The blocks were secured through

Prof. M. J. Elrod, of the State University, and after being sawed, were shellacked by a member of the force.

Also worthy of special mention is the clearance of the schooner "William" in the year 1794, with the signatures of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson attached, the valuable gift of Mr. H. K. Howry.

Through the assistance of Mr. F. P. Mathewson, manager of the Anaconda Mining Co., a beginning has been made toward a prepared, identified and scientifically labeled mineral collection, he having made a donation of a number of interesting specimens. Aid has been promised in other directions, and we are in a fair way soon to have a creditable mineral cabinet.

Historic relics.

A few valuable additions have been made to our historic relics, as will be seen from the list given in the appendix. So noteworthy as to deserve mention here are a plow made by hand, by Mr. Geo. Thexton, in the year 1864, donated by his son, Theo. Thexton; two pieces of rare continental money, donated by Mr. Jacob Titman, of Townsend; and a trowel used in the erection of Fort Benton, in the year 1850, secured through the efforts of Mr. Joe Kipp, and Mr. W. C. Broadwater, of Browning, Mont. The earnest co-operation of the citizens of the state in increasing the number of mementoes of the past is greatly desired.

Equipment.

Within the past year our equipment has been added to by the fitting up of a case for our mineral collection, and by the purchase of a handsome and convenient manuscript cabinet, and a small amount of additional shelving.

Although the library force may well congratulate itself on the pleasant surroundings amid which the work is done, and the wisdom of those who have preceeded us in seeing that the furnishings were of the very best, yet we are beginning seriously to feel the limitations of our space. Fully one-third of our books are in the basement, and but few more volumes can be placed upon our shelves without sending more of the less used ones to the same place. The space in which it is possible to put pictures is so filled up that the acquisition of every new one raises the question, "Where shall it be placed?" A partial solution has been made by sending some of the pictures to the various offices and committee rooms, but this is far from satisfactory.

The corridor is by no means the most desirable place for our museum cases. On a dark day it is almost impossible to examine them, with the exception of the few that have been fitted up with electric lights.

In the enlargement of the capitol building, which must

certainly come soon, earnest regard should be had for the needs of the library. Nor is it too much to look forward to the time when, as has been done in Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and is soon to be done in Nebraska, a building shall be erected which shall supply all needs, and testify in a manner apparent to all, to the value the state places upon the conservation of its history, and its estimate of the importance of the state library as a great educational force.

A look forward.

My eighteen month's experience has fully convinced me that the library has a mission, and an important one. With a liberal policy on the part of the state, wise supervision by the trustees, and efficient management by the librarian, its usefulness and the scope of its activities will largely increase. Its co-operation will be more and more sought by those interested in the study of the history of Montana and the northwest; a closer relationship will be established with the educational interests of the state, and a larger measure of aid afforded; the importance of the legislative reference work will demand the formation of a separate department; a system of travelling libraries will be established; and now unforeseen and important lines of effort will be entered upon.

Field work.

I am confident that the interests of the library will be greatly furthered by placing at the command of the librarian a certain sum to be used in field work. There is a great deal of valuable historical material and information which will never be secured unless some one goes for it. I realize the danger of extravagance of expenditure in this direction, but with a librarian in whom the board has confidence, a definite fixed sum which shall not be exceeded, and a report rendered of the way in which the money is used, the danger will be reduced to the minimum.

Literary work.

It also appears to me that in the future the librarian should not only be the executive head of the library, but should, as opportunity offers, give time to literary work. The editing of the Bradley and Wheeler manuscripts; the preparation of a "Montana Political Hand Book", giving in concise form the most important political events from the earliest period; and the compilation of a Legislative Manual, similar to those published in the older states, are some of the things that suggest themselves.

Appropriations.

I would recommend that the following appropriations be secured for the two years beginning March 1st, 1909:

Ordinary running expenses—same as present year, \$3,000 per year.

For marking historic sites, \$1000 for the two years.

For additional help in the legislative reference department—available March 1st, 1910, \$600

Appendix.

In the appendix will be found a list of the portraits received during the two years; a list of the additions to the museum; and an abstract of expenditures.

Respectfully submitted,

W. S. BELL,

Librarian.

ADDITIONS TO MUSEUM COLLECTION.

Passport of schooner "William" bound from the port of Alexandria, Va. to Grenada, a very unique, rare and valuable document, printed in three languages, English, Dutch and French, has the signatures of George Washington as President and Thomas Jefferson as Secretary of State. Donor, H. K. Howry.

Two pieces of continental money, 1776, 1779. Donor, Jacob Titman, Townsend, Mont.

Mask worn by James Tower, while holding up North Coast Limited, May, 1907. Donor, Judge L. L. Callaway, Virginia City, Mont.

Plow made by George Thexton, of Virginia City, in the winter of 1864-5. Donor, Theo. Thexton, Virginia City, Mont.

Trowel used in the erection of Fort Benton, in the year 1850. Donors, Joseph Kipp, & W. C. Broadwater, Browning, Mont.

Meat pounder, once the property of Gray Calf, a chief of the Peigan Indians. Donor, W. C. Broadwater, Browning, Mont.

Smoky quartz crystals, and case. Donor, Hon. W. A. Clark.

First spool of thread made from the first wolen mill in Mont. Donor, J. A. Ferguson, Helena, Mont.

Ladies' Relief Corps Banner. Donors, Ladies of the Relief Corps.

Section of the "peace tree", under which was concluded the terms of surrender of the Spanish forces, between Gen. Shafter and Gen. Toral, July 17th. 1898. Donor, Chaplain G. C. Stull, Chaplain 11th Infantry.

RARE BOOKS.

Federal Instructor, 1839. Donor, John M. Denton, Red Lodge, Mont.

Prospectus, St. Louis and Montana Mining and Discovery Co. 1865. Donor, John W. Wade, Helena.

Norton's Literary Almanac, 1851. Donor, John W. Wade, Helena.

Norton's Literary Almanac, 1853. Donor, John W. Wade, Helena.

Smiley's Geography, 1839. Donor, W. S. Bell.

Map of Montana. No date, very early and full of detail. Donor, K. Tipton, White Sulphur Springs.

Map of Montana, 1881. Donor, David B. Weaver, Saxton, Pa.

ADDITIONS TO PICTURE COLLECTION.

Oil paintings and portraits.

Name.	Donor.
Isaac G. Baker	Members of his family, St. Louis.
A. Sterne Blake	Mrs. A. S. Blake, Victor, Mont.
Len Lewis	Lewis Penwell, Helena, Mont.
Oil Painting found in cabin of pioneer in mountains near Phillipsburg	H. L. Frank, Butte Mont.
"Liver Eating" Johnson	W. B. Tenyck, Billings, Mont.
Nicholas Hilger	David Hilger, Lewistown, Mont.
Helena in 1865	Mrs. Leopold Auerbach, San Francisco, Cal.
Paul McCormick,	Paul McCormick, Billings Mont.
John A. Creighton	Loaned by Mont. Pioneer's Association.
Aeneas, Kootenay chief	Loaned by Lee Kerr, Kalispell, Mont.
A. W. Miles	A. W. Miles, Livingston, Mont.
Bishop Brondell	Bishop John P. Carroll, Helena, Mont.

Photographs.

State Fair grounds	John W. Pace, Helena, Mont.
Last Territorial grand jury ...	John D. Thompson, Pittsburgh, Pa.
G. A. R. group, Bozeman, April, 1908	E. C. Kinney, Bozeman, Mont.
Eighth Territorial Council	Granville Stuart, Butte Mont.
Silver service presented to U. S. battle ship, Montana	Judge Theo. Brantly., Helena, Mont.
Governor's conference, Wash- ington, D. C., May, 1908.....	
Box Canyon, C. M. & St. P. R. R.	R. E. DeCamp.

EXPENDITURES, DEC. 1st, 1906 TO DEC. 1st, 1907.

Books, magazines etc	\$ 880.05
Pictures and Plates	696.80
Telephone and telegraph	43.08
Framing	31.60
Salary, Miss Barbour	200.00
Binding	149.07
Drayage	21.15
Express	250.71
Labor	176.27
Stationery and office supplies	270.41
Postage	56.26
Biennial Report	169.80
Traveling Expenses, authorized by the Trustees.....	104.85
Miscellaneous	21.30
Final payment on shelving	344.00
Total	<u>\$2616.95</u>

EXPENDITURES, DEC. 1st, 1907, TO DEC. 1st, 1908.

Books, Magazines, etc.	\$ 954.97
Pictures and Plates	101.25
Telephone and telegraph	24.60
Framing	14.25
Salary, extra service	140.50
Binding	183.08
Drayage	55.00
Express	190.71
Labor	185.21
Stationery, etc.	191.13
Postage	28.65
Compiling Vol. 6	205.25
Insurance premium	150.00
Rent typewriter	6 00
Payment on multigraph	30.00
Printing	11.40
Traveling expenses, authorized by the Trustees.....	144.95
Total	<u>\$3415.35</u>

AMOUNTS RECEIVED AND DISBURSED BY LIBRARIAN.

Receipts.

Historical volumes sold	16.70
Catholic Encyclopedia sold	18.70
Over payment returned—Putnam's Sons	25.32
Expressage returned	85
Fines	80

\$61.67

Disbursements.

Bell Telephone Co	\$ 6.00
Clock	1 25
Printing	2.25
Membership, American Association for Labor Legislation	5.00
Hack Fare	1.00
Keys	70
Postage	7.20
Pictures	1.00
Material for cleaning pictures	70
Magazines	11.80
Drayage	4.75
Books	3.55
Express	1.45
Balance on hand, Dec. 1st, 1908 ...	15.02

61.67

DISCARDED

JUN 24 1969

LIBRARY
STATE OF MONTANA

State of Montana, } ss.
County of Lewis and Clark, }

W. S. Bell, being first duly sworn, deposes that he is the person making the within account, and that the same account is correct.

(Signed),

W. S. BELL.

Subscribed and sorn to before me this 1st day of Dec. 1908.

(Signed),

G. L. IRVINE,

Notary Public in and for Lewis and Clark County.

